

**12th Meeting of the INTOSAI Standing Committee on EDP Audit:
Oslo, 10-12 September 2003**

Report on intoIT: Paper by SAI-UK

1. This paper reports progress on *intoIT*, the Committee's journal. We aim to publish a new edition twice yearly containing a mix of news, views and comments on the audit and use of IT in the public sector worldwide.
2. At the last meeting the Committee agreed that, although any relevant articles would be welcome, each edition of the Journal should attempt to pursue a theme and would continue to include a country focus article.
3. We have since received some contributions from Committee members, but overall support for the Journal from Committee members continues to be disappointing. To fill the gap we have expanded measures adopted previously:
 - used reprints (with permission) from other publications and sought other authors so that we have a reasonable number of articles on a theme and mix of topics;
 - approached other (i.e. non-INTOSAI) audit offices for permission to republish their material, for the same reasons;
 - used contributions from non-INTOSAI audit offices in order to pursue a theme in each edition. For example the theme of "waste" in edition 18 relied substantially on material provided by the State Auditors for Victoria and Arizona, and by the technology news-feed ComputerWeekly.com;
 - We have contributed a disproportionate amount of the material ourselves, which runs the risk of giving the Journal too much of a UK feel.
4. We continue to be surprised that country focus articles are so difficult to obtain despite their giving high profile publicity to the SAI concerned. There are 15 committee member countries that have not yet contributed a country focus article – *Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bhutan, Canada, Costa Rica, Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Israel, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Sweden*. Obviously, these are our first target for a contribution, particularly those countries that are not regular contributors to the journal.
5. Since the 2002 meeting in New Delhi we have published two further editions of intoIT:
 - Edition 17 (Jan. 2003): containing - Editorial (SAI UK); lead article by Kofi Annan (by permission of CNet); country focus (SAI Bangladesh); auditing web sites (Auditor General of Western Australia; SAI Brazil); IT contract audit (State Auditor for California); IT costing (SAI USA); Configuration Management (guest author); INTOSAI IT Audit Committee update (SAI

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UK); computer awareness/background article (SAI UK); and “net roundup”, a miscellany of articles derived from technology Newsfeeds (SAI UK);

- Edition 18 (June 2003): containing - Editorial (SAI UK); country focus (SAI USA); waste in IT (SAI UK, Auditor Generals for Victoria and Arizona, a commentary by SAI UK on an Oxford University research project into IT project management); software testing (guest author); common evaluation criteria (guest author); auditing e-taxation (SAI India); data downloading (SAI China); IT investment (SAI Sweden); audit methodology (SAI Norway); computer awareness/background (SAI UK); and two obituaries of notable technologists (SAI UK).
6. Providing that we can obtain sufficient material, edition 19 (Jan. 2004) is likely to take hacking as its theme. We have no country focus article as yet (please volunteer!). This edition should include material reprinted from the news-feed ZDNet, (responding to hack attacks) from the Auditor General for North Carolina (penetration testing), and written for us by a member of the UK Security Services on firewalls.
 7. To make this edition worthwhile we must have some contributions from SAIs! A greater contribution from INTOSAI members would help ensure it had more the appearance of a “house magazine” than is currently the case.
 8. On the positive side, over the past two years there has been a steady increase in the Journal’s circulation. We now distribute to 180 SAIs, 120 state audit offices and receive a small but steady stream of requests from individuals to be added to the mailing list. Many more copies of the Journal are downloaded from the Committee’s web site.
 9. The Committee is invited to:
 - Comment on the approach and content of recent editions and make any suggestions for improvement;
 - Commit to contributing at least one article, or a short news article, a year to support the journal. Note that there is an element of desperation creeping in here – the reality is SAI contributions currently come from a very small number of countries – if the Journal is to continue to thrive is must be actively supported by all Committee members.

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